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**BIGGLESWADE URBAN
DISTRICT**

**ANNUAL
REPORT**

For the Year

1950

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND
SANITARY INSPECTOR

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1950

To the Members of the Biggleswade Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the annual report on the public health and sanitary conditions in your district for the year 1950.

A review of the vital statistics reveals that both the death rate and the infant mortality rate are the lowest on record for the area. The death rate was 9.4 as compared with a rate of 11.6 for England and Wales and the corresponding figures for the infant mortality rate were 15.3 and 29.8. It is also pleasing to record that there were no deaths from pregnancy or childbirth. There was one death from tuberculosis and none from the other infectious diseases.

The number of cases of Infectious Disease notified was considerably larger than in 1949, being due entirely to an increase in the cases of Measles. No case of Poliomyelitis was notified.

I would like to thank the officials of the Urban Council and the staff for their help and co-operation.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

C. A. HARVEY,

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	4,647
Registrar-General's estimate of Population	7,430
Number of inhabited houses end of 1950	2,231
Rateable Value	£38,851
Sum represented by a penny rate	£155 1s. 9d.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

Live Births

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	70	51	121
Illegitimate	1	9	10
	<hr/> 71	<hr/> 60	<hr/> 131
Birth rate per 1,000 Home population			18.3
Birth rate for England and Wales			15.8

Still Births

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	—	2	2
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	<hr/> —	<hr/> 2	<hr/> 2
Still Birth rate per 1,000 home population			0.27
Still Birth rate for England and Wales			0.37

Deaths

	Males	Females	Total
All Causes	30	47	77
Death rate per 1,000 home population			9.4
Death rate for England and Wales			11.6
Deaths from diseases and accidents of pregnancy and child birth:			
From Sepsis			—
From other causes			—
			<hr/> —
Total ...			—

Deaths of Infants under One Year of Age

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	2	—	2
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	<hr/> 2	<hr/> —	<hr/> 2
Rate for all infants per 1,000 live births			15.3
Rate for England and Wales			29.8

Vital Statistics for the year—*continued*.

Deaths from:—

Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	—
Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	—
Influenza	...	...	...	—
Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	16

STATISTICAL TABLE 1942-1950

Year	DEATH RATE		BIRTH RATE		INFANT MORTALITY RATE	
	Biggleswade Urban	England & Wales	Biggleswade Urban	England & Wales	Biggleswade Urban	England & Wales
1942	12.2	11.6	14.5	15.8	56.0	49
1943	12.6	12.1	17.1	16.5	32.8	49
1944	11.2	11.6	21.6	17.6	46.6	46
1945	11.5	11.4	15.9	16.1	70.7	46
1946	10.7	11.5	15.8	19.1	27.2	43
1947	11.4	12.0	20.9	20.5	56.0	41
1948	10.5	10.8	16.7	17.9	40.6	34
1949	10.5	11.7	16.8	16.7	16.1	32
1950	9.4	11.6	18.3	15.8	15.3	29.8

CAUSES OF DEATH

The following table shows causes of death as given in the Registrar-General's statistics:

Causes of Death							M.	F.
All Causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	30	47
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
2. Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
3. Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
4. Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
7. Acute poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
8. Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung bronchus	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	2
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	7
15. Leukaemia, aleumaemia	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
16. Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	6
18. Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	3
19. Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
20. Other heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	5
21. Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	4
22. Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
23. Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2
24. Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
25. Other disease of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
31. Congenital malformations	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	10
33. Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
34. All other accidents	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
35. Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
36. Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

Public Health Officers

Medical Officer of Health—

C. A. HARVEY, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector, Engineer and Surveyor—

T. WILSON, M.Inst.M.E., M.R.S.I.

Laboratory Facilities

The services of the Public Health Laboratory Department of Pathology, Tennis Court Road, Cambridge, is available for the examination of any material submitted by the Health Department or by General Practitioners. This service is under the direction of the Medical Research Council through the Ministry of Health, and there is no charge to the Council. The Laboratory undertakes the examination of throat swabs, sputum, urine and faeces, and blood from cases of suspected infectious disease. and advice and assistance is always available.

Ambulance Facilities

The Bedfordshire County Council provides a complete service covering the whole of the County. The service is a twenty-four hour one and is free of charge, and is available for the removal of all cases requiring admission to hospital and also for the transport of patients who are unable to use other means of transport to and from Hospitals or Clinics, so that they can receive any necessary treatment. The request for the provision of an ambulance must be made by a General Practitioner or by an Authorised Person.

The service is also available for the transport of persons suffering from infectious disease to isolation hospital.

The following depots are situated in the eastern and northern districts of the County:—

Biggleswade ...	Crab Lane ...	Tel: Biggleswade 2295
Bedford ...	Newnham Avenue ..	Bedford 67321

Midwifery and Domiciliary Nursing Services

The County Council are the responsible Authority for these services. One midwife is available for Maternity cases and one Nurse for Minor Medical and Surgical cases.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

Maternity and Child Welfare:

Child Welfare—"The Lawns", Biggleswade, Tuesday afternoons.

Ante and Post Natal—"The Lawns", Biggleswade, alternate Tuesday mornings.

Venereal Diseases

Bedford General Hospital, South Wing. The days and times of attendance are:

Males	...	Monday to Friday	...	4—8 p.m.
Females	...	Monday and Tuesday	...	6 p.m.
		Wednesday	...	5—7 p.m.
		Thursday	...	5 p.m.
		Friday	...	3—5 p.m.

Tuberculosis

The Chest Clinic, Bedford General Hospital, North Wing, Kimbolton Road, Bedford. The days and times of attendance are:

Monday	...	2 p.m. to 7 p.m.	Refills (A.P. and P.P.)
Tuesday	...	9 a.m. to 1 p.m.	Women and children—new
		2 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.	and old patients
Wednesday	...	9 a.m. to 1 p.m.	Contacts
		2 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.	Old patients—male and female
Thursday	...	9 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.	Males—old and new patients
Friday	...	9 a.m. to 1 p.m.	Refills (A.P. and P.P.)
		2 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.	Special cases

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply

Water is supplied to the area by the Biggleswade Water Board and has proved very satisfactory in quality and quantity. Samples have been taken periodically during the year and the results have shown that the supply is of the highest standard of organic and bacterial purity.

The following report by the Counties Public Health Laboratories of a sample sent for examination on 28th June, 1950, is typical.

Chemical Examination in parts per Million

Appearance — bright, with a very slight deposit of Iron oxide							
Colour (Hazen)	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Odour	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Reaction pH.	Neutral	...	...	...	...	...	7.3
Free Carbon Dioxide	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Electric Conductivity at 20 degs. C.	...	...	...	...	...	...	550
Total Solids dried at 180 degs. C.	...	...	...	...	...	...	370
Chlorine in Chlorides	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	...	...	...	...	...	...	230
Hardness: Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	300
Temporary	...	...	...	...	...	...	230
Permanent	...	...	...	...	...	...	70
Nitrogen in Nitrates	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.00
Nitrogen in Nitrites	...	...	...	...	Less than	...	0.01

Ammoniacal Nitrogen*	...	...	...	...	...	0.020
Albuminoid Nitrogen*	...	...	...	...	...	0.000
Metals	...	...	...	...	...	Absent
Free Chlorine Reaction	...	...	...	...	...	—
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs. at 27 degs. C.	...	...	...	...	...	0.15
Residual Chlorine	...	...	...	...	...	Absent

* To convert to Ammonia multiply by 1.21

Bacteriological Examination

Number of Colonies developing on Agar per cc. or ml. in—

1 day at 37 degs. C.	...	...	...	...	0 per ml.
2 days at 37 degs. C.	...	...	...	...	0 per ml.
3 days at 20 degs. C.	...	...	...	...	2 per. ml.

Presumptive Coliform reaction	...	Present in —	Absent from 100 ml.
Bact. coli.	...	Present in —	Absent from 100 ml.
Cl. welchii reaction	...	Present in —	Absent from 100 ml.

This sample is clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from iron and other metals. The water is very hard in character though not excessively so and it contains no excess of salinity or mineral constituents in solution. It is of a high standard of organic and bacterial purity.

These results are consistent with a pure and wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes.

Drainage and Sewerage

With the exception of a few cottages on the Langford Road and some outlying cottages the whole of the area has a water carriage system. The sewage disposal plant has been working to capacity. The length of new sewers laid during the year is given in the Sanitary Inspector's report. The cesspools of the outlying un-sewered properties are emptied by arrangement.

RAINFALL — 1950

MONTH	TOTAL Inches	GREATEST RAINFALL IN 24 HOURS		Slight trace	No. OF DAYS WITH		DAYS NO RAIN
		Inches	Dates		.01 or over	.04 or over	
January ...	0.99	0.38	2nd	Nil	5	4	22
February ...	2.63	0.41	12th	Nil	6	12	10
March ...	0.69	0.20	2nd	Nil	4	6	21
April ...	1.69	0.56	17th	1	3	13	13
May ...	2.85	0.77	21st	Nil	4	9	18
June ...	0.90	0.28	23rd	1	2	5	22
July ...	5.12	1.55	3rd	Nil	1	15	15
August ...	2.56	0.90	28th	Nil	5	10	16
September ...	2.56	0.57	23rd	1	1	18	10
October ...	0.34	0.19	30th	3	3	3	22
November ...	3.78	0.62	20th	2	5	17	6
December ...	1.06	0.20	10th	Nil	8	9	14

Snow: 4th, 14th, 15th, 26th, 30th December.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES, OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS

(a) General Statistics

The following table shows the number of cases of infectious diseases notified during the year, together with the number of cases admitted to hospital and the deaths from these diseases.

Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) notified during the year 1950

Disease	Total cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total registered deaths
Scarlet Fever	24	7	—
Pneumonia	7	—	1
Erysipelas	—	—	—
Measles	242	1	—
Whooping Cough	27	—	—
Total	300	8	1

(b) Individual Diseases

Scarlet Fever—Twenty-four cases were notified of which seven were admitted to hospital. There were no deaths.

Diphtheria—No cases were notified.

Measles—The number of cases notified was 242 as compared with two in the previous year.

Whooping Cough—Twenty-seven cases were notified.

Pneumonia—Seven cases were notified.

Analysis of Cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year ended 31st December, 1950

	Under 1 year M. F.	1 to 3 M. F.	3 to 5 M. F.	5 to 10 M. F.	10 to 15 M. F.	15 to 25 M. F.	25 to 35 M. F.	35 to 45 M. F.	45 to 65 M. F.	65 and upwards M. F.	Total all ages
Scarlet Fever ...	— —	2 —	2 3	3 10	1 3	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	24
Whooping Cough	1 —	1 2	3 6	6 7	— 1	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	27
Pneumonia ...	— —	— —	— —	1 1	— 1	1 —	— —	— —	2 —	— 1	7
Measles ...	1 4	19 24	35 40	56 48	6 7	— 1	— —	— 1	— —	— —	242

CLEANSING OF VERMINOUS PERSONS

Public Health Act, 1936, Sec. 85

Scabies

By arrangement with the Borough of Bedford, infected persons and contacts are treated at the Treatment Centre, Bedford, and two persons received treatment during the year.

Prevention of Blindness

No action was necessary under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

School Closure

It was not found necessary to close any schools in the area on account of infectious disease.

Eradication of Bed Bugs

It was found necessary to disinfect 3 houses during the year. Thermatox disinfectors and Bombay liquid spray were used and gave satisfactory results.

I. IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA

The tables given below show the numbers of children under 15 years of age who have received protective treatment against Diphtheria. The County Council, under the National Health Service Act, 1946, provides this treatment free of charge through the family doctor or at school or a child Welfare Centre. The figures have been supplied by the Eastern Divisional Medical Officer.

Immunisation in Relation to Child Population

Numbers of Children who had completed a full course of Immunisation at any time up to 31st December, 1950							
Age at 31.12.50 i.e. Born in year	Under 1 1950	1 1949	2 1948	3 1947	4 1946	5 to 9 1941-1945	10 to 14 1936-1940
Number Immunised	—	52	99	121	146	667	416
Estimated mid-year population, 1949	650						1091
	1501						

Primary Immunisations completed during 1950

Number of children during the year 1950 who completed a full course of Primary Immunisation in the Authority's Area (including Temporary Residents)							
Age at 31.12.50 i.e. Born in year	Under 1 1950	1 1949	2 1948	3 1947	4 1946	5 to 9 1941-1945	10 to 14 1936-1940
Number Immunised	—	45	3	6	2	17	24
	97						

II—Diphtheria Notifications and Deaths in relation to Immunisation

Age at date of notification	Number of cases notified	No. of cases included in preceding column in which child had completed full course of Immunisation	Age at date of death	Number of deaths	No. of cases included in preceding column in which child had completed full course of Immunisation
Under 1	—	—	Under 1	—	—
1	—	—	1	—	—
2	—	—	2	—	—
3	—	—	3	—	—
4	—	—	4	—	—
5 to 9	—	—	5 to 9	—	—
10 to 14	—	—	10 to 14	—	—
Totals	—	—	Totals	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS

The following table shows the number of new cases, and the number of deaths in their age groups.

Age Distribution of Cases and Deaths

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
10	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
15	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
20	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
35	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 and upwards	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	5	5	1	2	1	—	—	—

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925

No action was taken under these regulations, or under section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

REPORT OF SURVEYOR AND SANITARY INSPECTOR

Year Ended 31st December, 1950

Building Plans

The following building plans were approved by the Council and work inspected and drains tested during course of construction:—

Dwellings	...	...	...	...	3
Alterations, additions, conversions	...				24
Garages	...	...	...	...	9
Housing sites	...	...	...	...	3
Caravans	...	...	...	...	1
Accesses	...	...	...	...	3
Shops	...	...	...	...	1
Offices	...	...	...	...	2
Petrol tanks	...	...	...	...	1
Canteen	...	...	...	...	1
Bottling Store	...	...	...	...	2
Drainage	...	...	...	...	1
Advertisement signs	...	...	...		4
Greenhouses, agricultural buildings, store sheds etc.	...	...	...		17
					<hr/> 72 <hr/>

General Sanitary Inspections

The following inspections were made and nuisances abated or defects remedied where necessary by informal action:—

Housing defects	...	...	...	1156
Unfit houses	...	...	...	8
Defective drains	...	...	...	56
Factories	...	...	...	17
Water wastage	...	...	...	508
				<hr/> 1745 <hr/>

Meat and Other Foods

The following foodstuffs were condemned as unfit for human consumption:—

Meat	...	...	...	...	488 lbs.
Offal	...	...	...	...	7 lbs.
Fish	...	...	...	...	313 lbs.
Canned meat	...	...	...	...	56 lbs.
Cheese	...	...	...	...	46½ lbs.
Confectionery	...	...	...	...	10 lbs.
Various tinned foods	...	...	...	...	72 tins

All meat is slaughtered and allocated from a Ministry of Food Slaughterhouse in the neighbouring Rural District where it is properly inspected.

Factories and Workshops

The following factories and workshops are registered:—

Brewers	...	...	...	...	1
Millers	...	...	...	...	3
Motor and Cycle Engineers	...	...	...	...	12
General Engineers	...	...	...	...	6
Joiners	...	...	...	...	5
Plumbers	...	...	...	...	4
Printers	...	...	...	...	2
Tailors	...	...	...	...	2
Boot Repairers	...	...	...	...	5
Laundry	...	...	...	...	1
Caravans	...	...	...	...	1
Lingerie Manufacture	...	...	...	...	2
Bookbinding	...	...	...	...	1
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	23

House Scavenging

A 10 cubic yard Karrier refuse collecting vehicle is used for this work, with occasional assistance by ordinary motor transport. The refuse is satisfactorily disposed of by means of controlled tipping. The collection of salvage has been discontinued, and with the exception of a small quantity of scrap iron, no waste materials have been collected during the year.

Sewerage

During the year a length of 100 yards of 9 inch soil sewer extension has been laid in Hitchmead Road to serve new school and sundry premises, and 14 new connections have been made to the Council's sewers.

Water Supply

400 yards of 4 inch water main have been laid for the purpose of serving new Council houses in Stratton Way, and nineteen new connections to the Council's mains were made during the year.

The total consumption of water for the year, inclusive of trade supplies, was 107,198,000 gallons. This is an increase of a little over 4,000,000 gallons on the figures for the previous year. The overall average daily consumption of water was approximately 39 gallons per head of the population.

508 inspections for water wastages were made. Nine notices were served requiring repairs to prevent waste, and 499 taps were re-washed free of charge.

Housing

During the year the construction of 34 Council houses was commenced, and 12 houses were completed and occupied.

T. WILSON, M.I.Mun.E., M.R.S.I.,
Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

PART I

1.—Inspections:

Premises	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Number of Written notices	Number of Occupiers prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	11	7	—	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	57	10	1	—
(3) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	—	—	—	—
Total ...	68	17	1	—

2.—Cases in which defects were found:

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness ...	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation ...	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors ...	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences:					
(a) insufficient ...	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	1	1	—	1	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	1	1	—	1	—
Total ...	2	2	—	2	—

PART VIII

Outwork

Nature of Work	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of outworkers in August list required by Section 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing apparel } Making	2	—	—	—	—	—

